



# NEWSLETTER



## **A Landmark Moment: First-Ever IBZ Gimborn Training Held Outside of Gimborn, Germany**

IPA Moldova made history by hosting the first-ever IBZ Gimborn Street Survival Training outside Germany, with 50 participants attending this landmark seminar in international police cooperation. Read more on page 8.

## **Unlock Your Creativity with Ease with Canva**



Discover how easy it is to create professional, eye-catching designs with Canva. In this edition, we guide you through setting up your free account and getting started in just minutes - no design experience needed.

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See inside (page 30) to get started and make the most of this powerful, user-friendly design tool.



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## IPA International Photography Competition 2026



The IPA Socio-Cultural Commission invites members of the International Police Association to showcase their talent in the IPA International Photo Competition 2026.

### Categories:

- Open (any subject)
- Police at Work (with emphasis on Women in Police)

### Awards:

€400 Overall Winner; €300 category winners; €200 second place; €100 third place; plus 6 merit awards.

### Key Dates:

- Entry deadline: 31 July 2026
- Judging: 15 August 2026 (by professional photographers)

### Entry Details:

Open to all IPA members. Maximum 5 photos per person per category. Submit with the official entry form to: [anetasobieraj@ipapolska.pl](mailto:anetasobieraj@ipapolska.pl) (send large files in multiple emails).

By entering, participants agree to competition rules and allow use of images for IPA purposes.

[More Info](#)

# Introduction from Vice President & Chairperson International Relations Commission Oli Hoffmann



**Oli Hoffmann**

Vice President & Chairperson International Relations Commission

Dear IPA colleagues and friends around the world,

It is with great pleasure and heartfelt appreciation that I welcome you to the May 2026 edition of the IPA International Newsletter, serving in my capacity as your Vice President of IPA International and Chair of the International Relations Commission. This vibrant issue arrives at a pivotal moment for our Association, showcasing the remarkable energy, creativity and solidarity that continue to define the International Police Association as a truly global family of dedicated professionals.

This edition beautifully captures the enduring spirit of IPA – the genuine warmth of friendship forged across borders, the intellectual rigour of professional exchange, and our unwavering commitment to the founding principles of service, solidarity and mutual respect that unite about 400,000 members across 69 sections and five continents.

[www.ipa-international.org](http://www.ipa-international.org)

From the landmark Convention of the Statutes held in Lisbon, Portugal (14-18 March 2026), where key discussions reaffirmed our core identity, to dynamic regional meetings in Eswatini, San Marino, and the Baltic region, national congresses in Lesotho, Switzerland, Greece and Italy, and forward-thinking environmental initiatives like the Green IPA "Plant a Tree" campaign (22 April to 17 May 2026), our members worldwide are demonstrating the profound, positive impact we achieve together. I also would like to highlight the Young Police Officers Seminar (YPOS) 2026 on digitalisation in police training where representatives from about 30 sections participate, and a rich array of cultural projects that nurture both personal growth and international bonds.



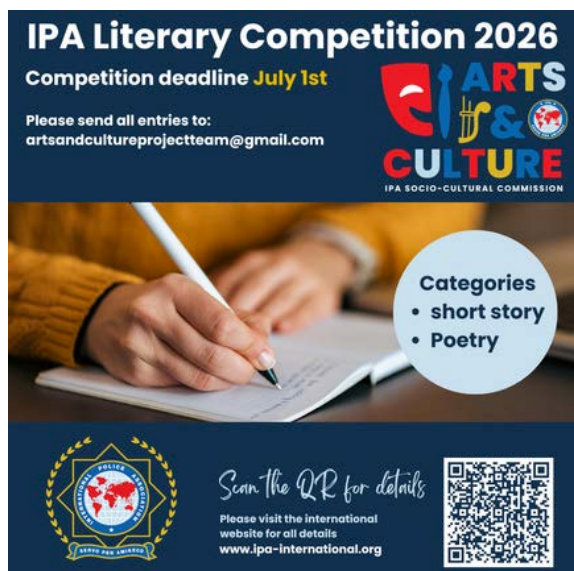
**IRC 7 Regions Meeting – West Europe, San Marino**

A special highlight this month are our ongoing creative competitions, which invite members, families and young talents to express the human side of policing through art, words and imagination. The 6th International Children's Drawing Competition 2026, open to children and grandchildren of IPA members aged 6-12 (born 1 January 2014 to 31 December 2020), welcomes up to two A4 entries per child on themes like police cars, animals and the environment, using pencils, paints or pastels – with submissions due by 16 August 2026 and results announced at the 69th IPA World Congress in Sri Lanka.

# Introduction from Vice President & Chairperson International Relations Commission Oli Hoffmann



Complementing this, the IPA Literary Competition 2026 calls for original, unpublished works in short story (max 10 pages) or poetry categories, exploring ethics, commitment and the emotional dimensions of police work, with a deadline of 1 July 2026 – prizes and full details available on our website. These initiatives not only foster creativity but also strengthen family ties within our IPA community, embodying our motto in every brushstroke and verse.



As Chair of the International Relations Commission (CIRC), I am deeply grateful for the team's steady, collaborative efforts to enhance IPA's global visibility and cultivate meaningful partnerships with aligned organisations. Working humbly and collectively, we prioritise dialogue that amplifies our voice while steadfastly serving our shared mission of friendship and professional cooperation.

Let us be unequivocal, as powerfully reaffirmed during the Lisbon Convention: IPA remains – and must always remain – a fully apolitical friendship organisation. Our strength lies precisely in this neutrality, allowing us to focus exclusively on fostering professional cooperation, cultural exchange and mutual respect beyond any political, governmental or ideological boundaries. In an era of global challenges, this principled stance – debated openly with representatives from our ten largest Sections and all seven regions – ensures we serve as a bridge for dialogue, human rights and unity among police professionals worldwide, preserving the non-political essence that has sustained us since our founding.

I am truly inspired by your unwavering dedication and invite you to immerse yourselves in these stories of achievement, innovation and heartfelt collaboration. Let us carry this momentum forward with enthusiasm, nurturing the global IPA family we are so privileged to be part of and building even stronger bridges of understanding for the future.

Servo per Amikeco

*Oli*

**Oliver Hoffmann**  
**Vice President & Chairperson International Relations Commission**

## Northern Europe Regional Meeting Held in Riga



In Riga, hosted by the Latvian Section, the Northern Europe Group meeting for the International 7 Region Project took place, bringing together representatives from Latvia, Iceland, Norway, Finland, Sweden, Denmark, Poland, Lithuania, and Estonia.

All Sections were present, with Group Leader Michael Boolsen coordinating the meeting, outlining key topics, and summarising discussions, decisions, and shared perspectives.

The IEB representative, Diego Trolese (CPC), conveyed greetings from the International President and the IEB, expressing appreciation to the Latvian Section—particularly President Inguns and his team—for the excellent organisation of the event.

A wide range of topics were discussed in a friendly and collaborative atmosphere, including international projects, as well as proposals and discussions stemming from the recent Statutes Conference in Lisbon. Attention was also given to potential interventions and motions for the upcoming World Congress 2026, to be hosted by the Sri Lankan Section in Colombo.

The meeting concluded with a reminder that the next gathering is planned for 2027 in Reykjavik, hosted by the Icelandic Section.

Following the meeting, participants enjoyed a convivial evening at a local restaurant, strengthening international friendships within the IPA.

**Diego Trolese**  
**Chairperson Professional Commission**



# Securing Europe: Insights from the European Parliament

I was honored to represent the International Police Association (IPA) as Vice President, alongside my dear friend Carine Pieters (President of IPA Belgium), at a pivotal Police Intergroup event held at the European Parliament in Brussels.

The discussion, titled "Before Borders and Battlefields: How Police is Central to Europe's Security," focused on the evolving role of law enforcement in an increasingly complex geopolitical landscape.

## Key Takeaways:

**Proactive Security:** Moving beyond reactive measures to ensure stability before crises reach our borders.

**Collaboration is Core:** The necessity of seamless cooperation between national police forces and European institutions.

**The Human Element:** Recognising that police officers are the first line of defense in maintaining the democratic fabric of Europe.

It was a privilege to participate this event and to discuss with many representatives including MPs this important topics. Together, we are building a safer Europe.

**Oliver Hoffmann**  
**Vice President & Chairperson International Relations Commission**



# Pioneering Street Survival Training in IPA Moldova Marks Milestone in International Police Cooperation

The Police Street Survival Training, held in Chişinău from 24–27 March 2026, marked a significant milestone for both the International Police Association – Republic of Moldova Section and IBZ Gimborn. It was the first-ever extraterritorial training delivered by IBZ Gimborn, and notably, Moldova became the first country to host such a seminar outside Germany, demonstrating strong organisational capability and international cooperation.



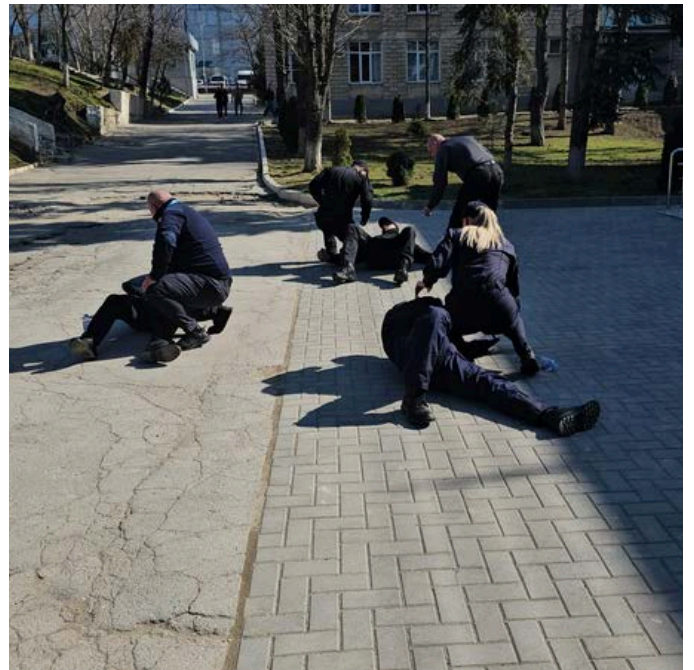
The event brought together 41 law enforcement officers from Moldova, Romania, and Ukraine, creating a valuable platform for cross-border collaboration, knowledge exchange, and strengthening professional networks in line with IPA's mission.

The training was delivered by experienced instructors Robert Stenhouse and Timothy Taylor, who were consistently rated highly for their professionalism, clarity, and ability to adapt to a multinational audience. Participant feedback frequently awarded top scores, reflecting the high quality of instruction.

The programme combined theory and intensive practical training, structured around key operational areas:

- Decision-making under pressure using the OODA Loop and situational awareness models
- Understanding physiological and psychological responses to conflict
- Knife threat awareness and tactical response
- Defensive tactics and empty-hand skills
- Trauma first aid ("Stop the Bleed") and introductory firearms techniques
- Scenario-based simulations replicating real-life policing situations

A strong emphasis was placed on realistic, scenario-driven learning, ensuring direct applicability to frontline policing.



# Pioneering Street Survival Training in IPA Moldova Marks Milestone in International Police Cooperation



Participant feedback highlighted exceptional outcomes:

- 100% recommendation rate
- 85% rated the training as “Very Good”
- 85% reported a full increase in operational confidence
- 80% said expectations were fully met
- High relevance and practical applicability to daily duties (65%)

Key strengths identified included high-quality practical exercises, expert instruction, and immediately usable skills, particularly in self-defence, first aid, and tactical response.

The seminar was supported by key institutions including the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Moldova, the General Police Inspectorate, the “Ștefan cel Mare” Academy, and the IPA International Executive Board, reflecting strong national and international backing.

Beyond training, the event also fostered cultural exchange and IPA camaraderie, with participants engaging in social activities and exploring Moldovan heritage. This reinforced the IPA motto *Servo per Amikeco* (“Service through Friendship”), strengthening relationships between officers from different countries.



In conclusion, the training was a highly successful and pioneering initiative, demonstrating the value of delivering international, high-quality police training locally. It enhanced participants’ operational capabilities, built lasting professional connections, and established a strong foundation for future international training collaborations across Europe.

**Mihai Cebotari**  
President IPA Moldova



# African Chapter Meeting in Eswatini A Historic First for IPA Africa

From 11-13 February 2026, the IRC African Chapter Meeting in Eswatini took place. The IEB was represented by Kikis Perikleous the IEB Liaison to IPA Africa, IPA President Martin Hoffmann and IPA Vice President Oliver Hoffmann.

This gathering marked a significant milestone – the first-ever IRC African Chapter Meeting held on African soil, bringing together dedicated IPA representatives from across the continent, namely Botswana, Eswatini, Kenya, Lesotho, Mauritius, Mozambique, South Africa and Seychelles. Hosted with outstanding warmth by IPA Eswatini, the event underscored Africa's growing importance within our global Association and set a strong foundation for future collaboration.



Over three productive days, discussions were open, constructive and forward-looking, focusing on how to further strengthen IPA across Africa. A central topic was preparation for the upcoming Convention of the Statutes in Lisbon (14-18 March 2026), where continental perspectives on modernising our International Statutes and Rules were shared to ensure broad input ahead of the World Congress in Sri Lanka.



In a pivotal moment, delegates unanimously elected Jared Ojuok as the next Chair of the African Region, signalling strong regional leadership and commitment to coordinated growth. The Sections thanked the outgoing Chair Vossie Vos for his outstanding commitment and leadership.

Sustainable development requires clear next steps, shared responsibility and measurable follow-up – all of which were agreed upon, with the IEB pledging full support through training, resources and strategic guidance.

# African Chapter Meeting in Eswatini A Historic First for IPA Africa



Beyond formal sessions, a highlight was our visit to Nsubane Primary School, where renovation works have begun to benefit 150 children with improved learning facilities. Seeing IPA Eswatini members partnering with local leaders and the community was profoundly moving – a vivid illustration of how education, safety and opportunity align with IPA values.

We were deeply touched by Eswatini's unique spirit of unity, tradition and community, values that mirror *Servo per Amikeco*. Our visit continued in South Africa, where we stayed at IPA House Pretoria and met with IPA South Africa leadership, reinforcing the personal bonds at the heart of our network.



Heartfelt thanks to IPA Eswatini, IPA South Africa, Vossie, and all participants for making this historic meeting a success. Together, we are building a stronger, united IPA in Africa – and worldwide.

**Kikis Perikleous & Oli Hoffmann**

# Professional Commission Project Leads Align on Future Priorities



On the occasion of the Italian National Congress, the CPC organised our annual meeting of the Team Leaders of the Professional Commission for all International IPA Projects; the location was the town of Abano Terme, near Padua, at the Alexander Palace Hotel.

Following the conference, on Saturday, March 8, 2026, a short tour of Padua took place, including a visit to the Basilica of Sant'Antonio and the Botanical Garden, one of the largest in Europe; there was also a gala evening. The following day, our meeting was held, with a brief presence from our IP, who introduced the strategic guidelines for our mandate, which ends in October 2027.

The meeting began with greetings and introductions from everyone, followed by a discussion of projects to establish a calendar of various events, proposals, and decisions on locations for YPOS, SYMC, SHEisIPA, and EDUCATION. There were also proposals and revisions to procedures, starting with the ATS project, which is attracting considerable interest given the increase in registrations. All those present presented their work so far, highlighting that each project has evolved, that there are new sub-projects already underway, and others in collaboration with international associations that share the same goals and professional interests.

Finally, some considerations were made regarding the available budget, with a projected expenditure to complete our programs in 2026 and 2027.

Work continued throughout the day until the evening; dinner was served at a typical local restaurant, and everyone returned on March 9, 2026.

At the end of the meeting, the CPC thanked everyone for their availability, professionalism, and expertise; for the support received, and above all, for the evolution of all projects, both old and new, without exception.

## 50 Trees Planted in Manzini as Eswatini Supports Green IPA Campaign

The Eswatini Section IPA, in collaboration with the Manzini Municipal Council, proudly took part in the April IPA environmental initiative, "Plant a Tree – Green IPA." This global campaign, led by the IPA Socio-Cultural Commission, aims to encourage members and their families to contribute to a greener, more sustainable world in celebration of Earth Day.



As part of this initiative, 50 trees were successfully planted along the freeway road in Manzini, helping to enhance the local environment while raising awareness of the importance of sustainability within the community. This activity reflects the wider mission of the campaign—to inspire each IPA member to plant at least one tree and to strengthen partnerships with local organisations and communities.



The Eswatini Section has confirmed that this is just the beginning, with more tree-planting and environmental activities planned across various regions of the country, ensuring continued contribution to the global "Green IPA" effort and long-term environmental impact.

**Darren Vilane**  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President – IPA Eswatini

# 5th Aid Delivery of IPA Austria to Ukraine



## Report of the Social Commission of IPA Austria Ukraine Aid

**Dear IPA-Friends,**  
**as Chairman of the Social Commission of IPA Austria, I would like to inform you about the fifth aid delivery to Ukraine – another significant step in our joint support for colleagues and their families affected by the war.**

At the very beginning of the conflict, IPA Austria established a relief fund to provide targeted assistance to IPA members and their families who have fallen into hardship as a result of the war. In this context, financial support was provided, among others, to an orphanage in Poland that had taken in children from Ukraine affected by the war. This initiative was organized in close cooperation with IPA Łódź. Furthermore, the International Executive Board (IEB) allocated a substantial amount of funding for the implementation of additional aid projects in Ukraine.



A special social project was initiated by our 3rd Vice President, Elke Strohmeyer, in cooperation with the Vice President of IPA Romania, Marius Mureșan. The aim was to bring at least a small moment of joy to children and families of IPA members who lost their lives in the war, and to give them a sign of hope in these difficult times. As part of this initiative, the fifth aid delivery took place from 11 to 14 March 2026. A particularly touching contribution came from the students of the secondary school in Güssing: on a voluntary basis, 140 shoeboxes were filled with sweets, small gifts, cuddly toys, and school supplies, lovingly decorated for Easter, and sent on their journey to Romania and onward to Ukraine.



Using a delivery van kindly provided free of charge by the company Marsch, Elke Strohmeyer covered more than 2,500 kilometers to safely transport the donations to Romania and further into Ukraine. After I was picked up at Cluj airport, we continued our journey for six hours to Vicovu de Sus, just a few kilometers from the Ukrainian border, where we were warmly welcomed by our Romanian IPA friends Paul Mironescu and Peter Patraucean, as well as the Vice President of IPA Romania, Marius Mureșan.

## 5th Aid Delivery of IPA Austria to Ukraine

On 12 March, we continued to the western Ukrainian city of Chernivtsi. There the aid supplies were handed over at the police headquarters. Police President Victor ne Citajlo informed the delegation about the still extremely tense security situation in the region, including missile and drone attacks. During the handover, several children whose fathers had fallen in the war received personal gifts. In addition, food packages were distributed to their mothers.

The President of IPA Chernihiv, Oleksandr Baydala, was also present at the meeting in Chernivtsi. I had previously met Oleksandr in Switzerland and informed him about IPA Austria's social project in Ukraine. He explained that the city of Chernihiv, located in the Donbas region, is continuously exposed to attacks by Russian forces. He therefore asked for support for families whose fathers had lost their lives in the war. As a direct handover on site was not possible for security reasons, the aid supplies were entrusted to him, and distribution to the affected families took place at the end of March.

In addition, several boxes containing the lovingly prepared gifts from the students in Güssing were taken by IPA Chernihiv members for distribution to children in need in the Donbas region.

Thanks to the large number of donated packages, it was also possible to bring Easter joy to children in Vicovu de Sus, Romania. The happiness and gratitude of the students there were overwhelming. The mayor of the town, Gheorghe Schipor, also expressed his sincere thanks for the support.

On 13 March, the journey continued to Suceava, one of the most important historic cities in Romania. There an exchange took place with IPA colleagues from the Gendarmerie as well as the city police.



During this meeting, gifts were also presented to two children whose fathers had lost their lives in the war.

This fifth aid delivery once again demonstrates the importance of solidarity, humanity, and international cooperation within IPA. It is a strong sign that help reaches those who need it most.

On behalf of the Austrian Section of IPA, I would like to sincerely thank everyone involved in making this initiative possible. Special thanks go to our 3rd Vice President and Head of the Styrian Regional Group, Elke Strohmeyer, for her tireless commitment and personal dedication to supporting children and families in Ukraine.  
Servo per amikeco

**Kurt Walker**  
**2nd Vice President**

## IPA Poland Green Victory in the Spirit of Servo Per Amikeco!



The Polish Police team from Lower Silesia, supported and coordinated by IPA structures, has secured 1st place in the "Large Company" category of the "W Kółko Kręcę" (Keep on Rolling) cycling campaign. This municipal initiative in Wrocław motivates residents to swap their cars for bicycles for their daily commutes to work. This participation aligns perfectly with the "Green IPA" project—an initiative promoting social responsibility and environmental awareness within the association.

By encouraging officers and civilian staff to reduce their carbon footprint, the program achieved spectacular results in this edition. The collective effort of our cycling members led to these impressive final figures: 47,430 points earned, 8,750 kilometers traveled, 2,114 kg of CO<sub>2</sub> saved. The commemorative trophy was accepted by the campaign coordinator Phd Bartłomiej Majchrzak from IPA Wrocław. We would like to thank all members and staff for their immense commitment to a healthier and greener future. Servo Per Amikeco!

**Jan N. Wieruszewski**  
IPA Poland



# IPA Switzerland Crowned 2026 World Champions at IPA Ice Hockey World Championship

## Golden Triumph in Riga

**At the first IPA Ice Hockey World Championship in Riga (Latvia), the Swiss team made history: With a cohesive team performance and tremendous team spirit, the squad secured the world championship title.**

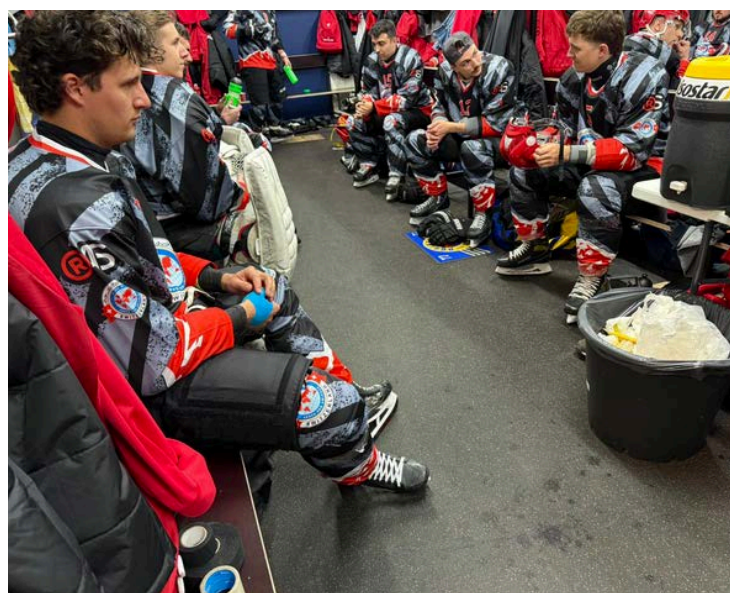
Even on the way there, it was clear that something special was in the air. Players from different cantons came together to form a strong unit—with the clear goal of competing at the very top. Upon arriving in Riga, the team started the tournament with focus and impressed from the outset with their dedication, discipline, and enthusiasm.



There, a familiar opponent awaited in Germany—and the chance for revenge. From the start, Switzerland was focused and dominated the game. With an impressive team effort, the dream became reality: World Champions 2026!



Even on the way there, it was clear that something special was in the air. Players from different cantons came together to form a strong unit—with the clear goal of competing at the very top. Upon arriving in Riga, the team started the tournament with focus and impressed from the outset with their dedication, discipline, and enthusiasm.



# IPA Switzerland Crowned 2026 World Champions at IPA Ice Hockey World Championship



When the final whistle blew, emotions erupted—a moment that will remain forever etched in the memories of the players, staff, and fans who traveled with the team. Off the ice as well, camaraderie, respect, and international friendship defined the tournament—truly in keeping with the IPA motto “Servo per Amikeco.”

Special thanks go to IPA Switzerland for their outstanding support, as well as to IPA Latvia for organizing this successful event. We would also like to express our gratitude to the Kapo BE Command on behalf of all participants for their fantastic support.

The team returned to Switzerland filled with pride and unforgettable memories—and with the world championship title in tow. Riga 2026—a chapter for the history books.

**Franz Bruelhart**  
IPA Switzerland



# Motorcycle Culture and Safety: IPA Netherlands Member Participates in Gimborn Training

Let me introduce myself. My name is Ger Geraets. I am 67 years young. I am a member of the IPA-Netherlands since 1977. I am Webmaster of IPA-Netherlands. I worked for the Royal Marechaussee and Police for 47.5 years and am now retired. I live in Buggenum, a small town in the province of Limburg in the Netherlands. I have 2 great hobbies. First of all, I am a musician and play the bass trombone, but my biggest hobby is motorcycling. I have been doing this for more than 46 years. For motorcycle enthusiasts: I drive a BMW K1600GT.

I was given the opportunity by IPA-Netherlands to participate in the seminar: Motorcycle culture and safety - Training for responsible motorcycling 10-12 April 2026.



**Seminar Description:** In this short weekend seminar for motorcyclists, the latest safety concepts and technical possibilities around the motorcycle are discussed, demonstrated and tested. Guided motorcycle tours are offered on beautiful routes through the Bergisches Land. Saturday will be dedicated to driving safety training according to the DVR guidelines.

Because the seminar starts at 09.00 am, I and other participants, already went to Gimborn on Thursday. You have to book this overnight stay separately.

On Friday, at the beginning of the seminar, we were warmly welcomed by Ulrike Neuhoff – Education Officer of the IBZ Schloss Gimborn team. She told the history about the castle Gimborn and how it all came about with IPA. She wished us a pleasant seminar.

After this, the two seminar givers introduced themselves. This concerned Olaf and Stefan Nahrgang. Both very experienced police motorcyclists. In their jobs, they teach police motorcyclists in North Rhine-Westphalia, among others. Then the participants introduced themselves. A total of 17 participants: 9 participants from Germany, 2 from Switzerland and 6 from the Netherlands.

In a classroom context, on this 1st day in the morning, explanations were given about various motorcycle riding techniques. In particular, how to approach corners technical and how to drive them. How important is then your field of vision?

## Motorcycle Culture and Safety: IPA Netherlands Member Participates in Gimborn Training

It was also discussed how to ride in a group, how to read the road, how to recognize danger and more. After lunch, the group was split into 2 and what we had learned was put into practice under the leadership of Olaf and Stefan. Being able to practice a lot of curves. This was very intensive, but we learned a lot. That was the opinion of the majority of the participants.



On Saturday 11 April, right after breakfast, we went on the bikes to a large factory site where, according to the DVR guidelines, we learned and performed a lot of techniques. (DVR Guidelines (Deutscher Verkehrssicherheitsrat) guarantee high quality standards for practical safety training. They provide standardized, moderated-led courses in enclosed areas, focusing on risk recognition and vehicle control (e.g. braking, evasive action, ABS/ESP use) to increase road safety.) Olaf and Stefan kept us busy all day. The upward trend in the use of technology was nice.

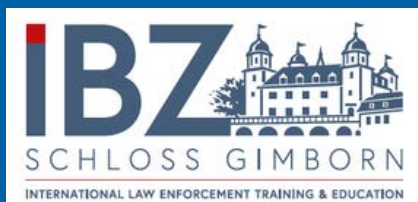
On Sunday, after breakfast, we drove again in groups to put the learned techniques into practice. After lunch everyone went home again.



After this weekend I can only say that it is very worthwhile to follow this course. I thought I could ride a motorcycle, but thanks to Olaf and Stefan I only learned. The care by IBZ Gimborn was fantastically arranged. Good and nice rooms. The participants also liked the use of the Turmbar.

Thanks to: Olaf, Stefan, Rudolf, Leo, Hatti, Christoph, Willem, Mönchen, Bouwdie, Daniel, Alfred, Tonny, Patrick, Ton, Gerd(with D), Udo, Georg-Josef en Volker.

**Ger Geraets**  
IPA Netherlands



Have you considered attending a seminar at our flagship education centre, Gimborn?

There is a wide range of excellent seminars available, covering diverse topics such as empowering female leaders, smart patrolling, and developing stress intelligence. You can explore the full Gimborn seminar programme here.

[Gimborn Seminars](#)

# New National Board Confirmed as IPA Italy Holds 20th Elective Congress in Abano Terme

**2026 began with the confirmation of Nicolangelo Pezone as the president of the Italian Section of the I.P.A.**

The 20th National Elective Congress took place in Abano Terme, in Veneto, with the presence of 75 delegates from the peninsula's 21 delegations and the participation of over 170 people. The presence and the ever-constant support of President Martin Hoffmann were particularly appreciated, as well the participation of delegates and members from Albania, Austria, Greece, Switzerland, San Marino, Montenegro, Hungary, Moldova, UK, Germany and the United States.



During the congress delegates were engaged in the delicate task of identifying the new national board, the guests and visitors were accompanied on their tours and sightseeing visits in the surrounding areas, such as the splendid historic city of Padua with the Basilica of Sant'Antonio, a masterpiece mainly in Gothic style with Romanesque and Byzantine influences, and the charming Euganean Hills, which inspired the famous poet Francesco Petrarca in composing some of his most renowned works.



The new national team will be called upon to tackle stimulating and challenging tasks throughout its term. In addition to laying solid managerial and administrative foundations for the association, by sharing their knowledge and experiences, they will also need to take action to enable the launch of collective projects that will significantly foster the growth of IPA Italy.

The true essence of the IPA members does not lie in simply having a card in their pocket, but in feeling like an integral part of a family that shares the same interests and ideas, and that appreciates the work offered spontaneously in the spirit of friendship and solidarity.



# New National Board Confirmed as IPA Italy Holds 20th Elective Congress in Abano Terme



The elected team is multi-generational, with representatives from different police forces, with various ages and experiences, all united by a strong spirit of collaboration to achieve common goals, and it is composed as follows:

**President:** Nicolangelo Pezone  
**Deputy President:** Alfredo Iasuozi  
**Vice President:** Antonio Molinaro  
**Secretary General:** Miss Francesca Perchiazzi  
**Deputy Secretary:** Francesco Amodeo  
**Vice Secretary:** Eugenio Cagnazzo  
**Vice Secretary:** Ms Antonella Setaro  
**Treasurer:** Salvatore Del Giglio  
**Vice Treasurer:** Filippo Paci



IPA Italy

# When a Travel Form Goes Missing... But the IPA Spirit Delivers

A recent travel experience involving International Police Association member Aaron Steele is a perfect reminder of what makes the IPA truly unique—service through friendship, even when things don't go to plan.

Aaron, a member of IPA UK, had submitted a travel request ahead of his trip to Canmore in March 2026. However, due to an unexpected issue, the form never reached its intended destination. Instead, it seemed to “go travelling” itself, leaving both Aaron and the IPA teams unaware of the request until just days before his arrival.

With very little notice, IPA UK quickly contacted IPA Canada to see if anything could be arranged. Despite the short timeframe—and the usual expectation of advance notice—the response from Canada was swift and welcoming.



Thanks to the efforts of the IPA Alberta-NWT team, everything came together just in time. Aaron was warmly received and had the opportunity to take part in a visit to the Calgary Police Service, including a special presentation of their helicopter unit, HAWC 1.

The visit didn't end there. Aaron also joined local IPA members at a social evening held at the Calgary Police Association lounge—where, by all accounts, the camaraderie lasted until the very end of the night.

What could have been a disappointing situation turned into a memorable international experience, highlighting the strength of IPA connections across borders. Even without the usual preparation time, members came together to ensure a visiting colleague felt welcome and included.

This story is more than just a travel hiccup resolved—it is a reflection of the IPA motto, *Servo per Amikeco* (Service through Friendship). It shows that while systems and processes are important, it is ultimately the people, goodwill, and shared values of the IPA that make the difference.

In the end, the “missing” travel form didn't prevent the journey—it simply became part of a story that perfectly captures what makes the IPA so special.

**IPA UK**

# Echoes of Heroism: Holocaust Remembrance and Leadership at Ela Prison, Israel

By Pninit Shein Senior Manager, IPA Israel (Sports & Gender Equality) International Project Manager, #SHEisIPA Team Project Manager, "Zikaron BeGuf Rishon" – Dudi Ronen Project

On April 12–13, 2026, during Holocaust Remembrance Week, I had the honor of leading a unique educational initiative at the Ela Prison complex in Southern Israel. This mission bridged the gap between historical memory and modern leadership, bringing a powerful message of resilience to both the prison's education department and my fellow colleagues within the International Police Association (IPA).



## A Unified Front of Respect

The event was a significant moment for our organisation. We were honoured by the presence of the Prison Commander, Brigadier General (Tat Gonder), who personally attended the lectures. His participation, alongside our dedicated IPA staff, underscored the vital importance of moral education and human rights within the law enforcement and correctional services.

## The Partisan's Legacy: A Story of Female Strength

As a representative of the #SHEisIPA international team, I felt it was particularly poignant to share the story of my grandmother. Born in Bulgaria, she was a woman of extraordinary courage who joined the partisans to fight against the Nazi regime. Her survival and her journey to Israel in 1948 are pillars of my own commitment to female leadership and resilience.

Sharing her testimony as a partisan fighter is a "Zechut"—a profound privilege. It serves as a reminder that leadership often emerges from the darkest of times, and that the strength of the individual can spark global change.

## Leading the Future Through Memory

In my roles overseeing Sports and Gender Equality for IPA Israel and managing international projects, I see a direct link between the lessons of the Holocaust and our professional values today. We are the "Living Bridge." It is the responsibility of the younger generation of leaders to ensure these testimonies do not fade.

By bringing these stories into the correctional environment, we encourage reflection on justice, ethics, and the power of the human spirit. As we look forward, we carry the torch of those who came before us, ensuring their bravery continues to guide our path toward a more equal and just world.

**"We shall never forget. It is our duty to tell their stories, ensuring that the light of the past illuminates the leadership of the future."**

## Lowlands on Patrol – IPA Netherlands

In April, IPA Limburg-Noord (Netherlands) organised an international exchange for the fourth time. Every two years, this district organises a week-long event for foreign police officers, and this year it was once again held in collaboration with IPA Antwerp (Belgium) under the name Low Lands on Patrol.



On Sunday, participants from Finland, Spain, Iceland, Sweden, Denmark, Norway, Lithuania, the United Kingdom and Greece arrived in Venlo to get to know one another and our culture. They visited a windmill and attended an event where people with disabilities were driven around the region in around 200 honking lorries. On Monday, the group visited the CARMA police zone (Belgium) and the KRC Genk football stadium. They also visited the Limburg Traffic Police in Buchten.

On Tuesday, the group travelled to North Brabant to visit the mounted police and the detection dogs of the National Expertise Unit. Afterwards, the colleagues joined a traffic check in Sevenum, where many were also able to actively assist in checking their fellow countrymen.

In previous editions of this event, the organisers had already learnt that there are no McDonald's in Iceland, so our Icelandic guest was treated to a behind-the-scenes tour of a McDonald's branch. Something that was greatly appreciated.

On Wednesday, the group attended a training exercise by the Technical Unit and Security Unit in Nijmegen. They then visited the historic city centre. Thursday was devoted to training. A visit was made to the IBT Centre in Sevenum, where, under expert supervision, participants were able to try out the use of the stun gun and the service pistol for themselves. There was also an opportunity to exercise together. On Friday, the participants visited the Police Academy in Apeldoorn. Here, they joined the general meeting of IPA Netherlands. A great way to show other districts that organising activities for young members is crucial to the survival of our wonderful association. After lunch, a very interesting visit to the King Willem III Barracks in Apeldoorn was on the programme. This visit was the perfect way to get to know the Royal Military Police. As if the week hadn't been intense enough, a few guests decided to explore Venlo's nightlife until the early hours of the morning.



## Lowlands on Patrol – IPA Netherlands



On Saturday morning, everyone had the chance to sleep in, after which the group set off for a relaxing day out in Roermond. This gave them the opportunity to shop at the Designer Outlet Roermond and buy souvenirs for their loved ones back home. The participants were also given a guided tour of the magnificent fire station in Roermond. In the evening, a convivial barbecue was planned, which was joined by various members of IPA Limburg-Noord.

On Sunday, the participants had a day off. Some visited the city of Maastricht, whilst others travelled to Mönchengladbach in Germany to attend a Bundesliga football match. On Monday, most participants were scheduled to return to their home countries.

Once again, the organisers can look back on a highly successful edition of this event. It is wonderful to see how a group of strangers, partly thanks to their shared passion for police work, quickly bond into a close-knit group. Not only was knowledge and experience exchanged, but lasting friendships were also formed.

**Lars Hoebbers**  
**IPA Netherlands**  
**Vice Chairman**



The "Walk for World Peace," led by Buddhist monk Phra Sutham Nateetong, will see seven monks walk approximately 3,000 km across Europe from 19 April to 7 July 2026, travelling from Amsterdam to North Cape through the Netherlands, Germany, Denmark, Sweden, Finland, and Norway. Promoting peace, compassion, and unity, the initiative invites IPA members to engage along the route by joining sections of the walk or welcoming the group as they pass through their countries. This remarkable journey provides a unique opportunity to connect with a global movement and strengthen international friendship. Timings may vary depending on weather and conditions, and a full itinerary is available. IPA Sections are encouraged to actively support and participate in this inspiring initiative.

[See More](#)

# Upcoming Events



**IPA PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION 2026**

**ARTS & CULTURE**  
IPA SOCIO-CULTURAL COMMISSION

Organized by the Socio-Cultural Commission  
All photographs should be sent together with the official entry form by email to the following email address: onetasobieroj@ipopotako.pl  
\* Deadline for entry is 31st July 2026  
\* Scan QR Code for details

[International Photo Competition](#)

Open Now

Deadline 31<sup>st</sup> July 2026

**IPA Literary Competition 2026**  
Competition deadline July 1st

Please send all entries to:  
artsandcultureprojectteam@gmail.com

**ARTS & CULTURE**  
IPA SOCIO-CULTURAL COMMISSION

Categories

- short story
- Poetry

Scan the QR for details

Please visit the international website for all details  
www.ipa-international.org

[International Literary Competition](#)

Open Now

Deadline 1<sup>st</sup> July 2026

**International Police Association**

**ARTS & CULTURE**  
IPA SOCIO-CULTURAL COMMISSION

International Police Association  
Socio-Cultural Commission

Introduce

**6TH INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S DRAWING COMPETITION**

POLICE CARS ★ ANIMALS ★ ENVIRONMENT

Scan the QR Code for more details

Good Luck !

[International Children's Drawing Competition](#)

Open Now

Deadline 16<sup>th</sup> August 2026



**IBZ**  
Information and Education Centre  
Castle Gimborn e.V.

[Motorcycle Culture and Safety – Responsible Motorcycle Training.](#)

1-3 May 2026

**ARTS & CULTURE**  
IPA SOCIO-CULTURAL COMMISSION

Engraving Sculpture  
Painting Graphic design  
Drawing Photography  
Comic Literature  
Model making

**ARTIPA 2026**  
Principado de Viena

PALACE OF CULTURE  
Address: 11 and 13 Navarro Villoslada St. 31010 Villoslada, 11 y 13...  
Opening: May 6th  
Closing: May 16th  
FREE ENTRANCE



[ARTIPA 2026 –IPA Spain](#)

6-16 May 2026



[IPA Greece Folk Dance Event](#)



9 May 2026

Here are some of the events taking place throughout the IPA over the next couple of months. Visit our international website for a full list of our upcoming events:  
[ipa-international.org/Events](http://ipa-international.org/Events)

# Upcoming Events

**WROCLAW POLAND**  
THE HOUSE OF IPA GAMES 2026

10-15 MAY 2026

DISCOVER THE

IPA Games 2026  
Wroclaw, Poland

10-15 May 2026

11-17 MAYO 2026  
**POLICE WEEK**  
Vive una experiencia única con  
IPA Málaga e IPA Xerez.  
Honra, hermandad y orgullo  
policial internacional.

Salida desde Madrid  
Vuelo directo Iberia

IPA Spain: Travel to Police  
Week Washington 2026

11-17 May 2026

IPA ROMANIAN SECTION  
IPA REGION 3 BIHOR  
13 - 17 May 2026  
Baile Felix, Romania

**CUP LOTUS**  
XXI EDITION  
INTERNATIONAL MINI FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

For more details about the tournament and to register  
teams, please contact us.

Niculescu Cristian  
Pabirci Cristian

0744 570632  
0749 012955

ipa@hor3ipaeromania.ro

Lotus Cup 2026  
IPA Romania

13-17 May 2026

**IBZ**  
Information and Education Centre  
Castle Gimborn e.V.

Leadership in prospect or  
mastering the change of role  
Gimborn

18-20 May May 2026

**IBZ**  
Information and Education Centre  
Castle Gimborn e.V.

Active retirement  
Gimborn

18-21 May 2026

INVITATION  
POZNAŃ POLA

**XXVIII**  
International Football Tournament  
IPA POZNAŃ 2026 – Stęszew

20-23 May 2026  
Wednesday – Saturday

XXVIII International Football  
Tournament Poznań, Poland

20-23 kMay 2026

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# Gimborn Seminars

Discover the opportunities at IBZ Gimborn—a leading international training centre for law enforcement professionals. Located at Castle Gimborn, it serves as a hub for seminars, conferences, and professional exchange.

The 2026 seminar programme offers a wide range of courses designed to enhance professional development, share global best practices, and strengthen international networks in policing.

Explore the upcoming seminars, find topics that match your interests, and plan ahead to secure your place. IBZ Gimborn provides a unique environment to learn, connect, and grow within the global law enforcement community.



[Click Here](#)



## NEW LOGO

*Discover Gimborn's new logo, reflecting its modern and forward-looking approach to international police education.*

## UPCOMING SEMINARS



### **Security Actors in Interaction – Civil-Military Cooperation in the Current Situation**

In today's evolving security environment, effective cooperation between civilian and military actors is more important than ever. This seminar in Germany provides a comprehensive overview of civil-military cooperation, including legal frameworks, operational planning, and responses to hybrid threats. Participants will gain practical insights into police responsibilities in crisis situations, protection of critical infrastructure, and collaboration with organisations such as the German Red Cross. This is a valuable opportunity for professionals to enhance understanding of integrated security approaches and strengthen cooperation in complex and challenging scenarios.

To Register for this event, click on link

[Register Here](#)



# Marketing



## Elevate Your Design Skills Today – Canva

Creating professional designs no longer requires advanced skills or expensive software. Tools like Canva have made it incredibly easy for anyone, regardless of experience to produce high-quality visuals for presentations, newsletters, social media, and more. One of the biggest advantages is that you can get started with a free account in just a few minutes.

### Why Canva is So Accessible

Canva is designed with simplicity in mind. Its drag-and-drop interface allows users to create designs quickly using pre-made templates, fonts, images, and graphics. Whether you need a flyer, report cover, or social media post, everything is ready to use—no design background required.

The free version already includes:

- Thousands of templates
- A large library of photos, icons, and elements
- Basic photo editing tools
- Collaboration features for teams

For most everyday needs, the free plan is more than sufficient.

### How to Get a Free Canva Account

Getting started is straightforward:

1. Go to the Canva website ([www.canva.com](http://www.canva.com))
2. Click on “Sign up”
3. Choose how you want to register:
  - Email address
  - Google account
  - Facebook account
4. Follow the prompts to create your profile
5. Once logged in, you can immediately start designing

There is no payment required for the free version, and you can upgrade later if needed—but it’s entirely optional.

### Tips for Getting the Most Out of Canva

- Start with templates to save time
- Use brand colours and logos for consistency
- Explore the “Elements” tab for icons and graphics
- Collaborate with colleagues by sharing designs



## Marketing



### Stay Connected!

Keep up to date with the IPA community by following us on social media and feel free to share our updates with friends and family.

Scan the QR code to access our Linktree and explore all our platforms. Discover how we are promoting the IPA and connecting members worldwide.





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